

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

[Buildings Home](#)

[About the Project](#)

[Chronology](#)

[Building Index](#)

[Contact Us](#)

National Research Centre

Address: 1411 Oxford St.

Start Date: 1949

Completion Date: 1952

Architect: Leslie R. Fairn
(?)

Renovation Date(s): c1964;
2003

Contractor:



National Research Council Building,
1952

Building History

The National Research Council (NRC) building at Dalhousie was established as a satellite research lab of the NRC in 1952. Dalhousie leaders had been intrigued in 1946 by the NRC's new lab in Saskatoon, established to further research into utilization of the Prairies' natural resources. Dalhousie believed that a similar movement fostering Maritime research would be valuable. It was hoped that the research and scientists of the NRC lab would benefit, and work in collaboration with, those of Dalhousie.

The National Research Council is the Government of Canada's foremost organization for research and development. Established in 1916, it has for decades led advances in science and engineering, facilitating cooperation with industry and dissemination of new technologies to benefit society.

The NRC now has nineteen institutes and four technology centres across Canada, working in areas such as aerospace, biotechnology, engineering and construction, and information and communications technologies. The NRC labs on the Dalhousie campus house the Institute of Marine Biosciences (IMB). NRC-IMB is a recognized leader in biotechnology and biosciences research. It has developed partnerships with industry, government and research organizations and acts as a model, incubator and disseminator of ideas and innovation. The NRC-IMB pursues research in three core areas: aquaculture, natural toxins and advanced research technologies.

The NRC building at Dalhousie was built at a cost of \$600,000. Its official opening took place in June, 1952, when an honorary degree was bestowed on the President of the National Research Council, Dr. E. W. R. Steacie. The Centre has an extensive suite of life sciences labs that assures its place as a key component of the Atlantic region's Life Sciences research "cluster." It was first enlarged in 1964. In 2003, the \$4.2 million dollar Industry Partnership Facility was annexed to the original building. This 30,000 square foot facility houses start-up companies that can take advantage of the resources and research of the NRC, further strengthening the ties between research and industry.

References

[Top](#)



Revised on
Comments to the [Webmaster](#)

The Buildings of Dalhousie University

National Research Centre

Buildings Home

About the Project

Chronology

Building Index

Contact Us

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Building History

[Top](#)



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Comments to the [Webmaster](#)